

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 35 and 42-57 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 36 and 40-41 are currently being amended.

Claim 58 is being added. No new matter is being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 36-41 and 57 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 35-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 36 and 40, which have been amended to include the features of independent claim 35, have also been amended to address the issue raised in the Office Action, and applicants submit that the rejection has been overcome.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 36-40 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 36 and 40 have been amended to be in independent form, and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and thus are in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Dependent claims 37-39, 41 and 58 depend from one of claims 36 and 40, and are likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 42, 43, 45, 50, 51 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,970,299 to Sano et al. ("Sano"). Claims 35, 41, 46-49, 52 and 54-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,673 to Morigami ("Morigami"). These rejections are moot in light of cancellation of claims 35 and 42-57, and the amendment of claim 41 to depend from claim 36, which has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

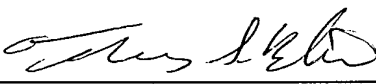
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 12, 2007

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438